

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please cancel the original Abstract at page 25, lines 1-13, in its entirety, and insert therefor the following replacement Abstract on a separate sheet as follows:

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 24-25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 26 is a ~~side~~ perspective view of a hair inserter according to another modification of the seventh embodiment.

Please replace the paragraph at page 28, lines 14-21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The hair inserter [[1]] 101 of the fourth embodiment will be described in more detail. The main body 102 is almost a flat bar as shown in Figs. 11(a) and 11(b). The main body 102 has a hook 121 at the upper end thereof. The lower end 124 of the main body 102 is tapered so that it may easily be put into a tubular hair holder T. The main body 102 has, in its lengthwise middle portion, a recess 125 for sliding which extends in the longitudinal direction.

Please replace the paragraph at page 29, lines 14-23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The closing member 103 is a combing member having comb teeth 131 at the upper end thereof as shown in Figs. 11(a) and 11(b). The combing member 103 is slidable in the length direction of the main body [[2]] 102 with its comb teeth 131 pointing to the hook 121 so that a hair bundle H as caught on the hook 121 may be fixed between the hook 121 and the comb teeth 131. The sliding protrusion 132 inclusive of the lower end of the combing member 103 has its cross-section configured to engage with the recess 125 for sliding. The combing member 103 is provided on each side of the main body 102.

Please replace the paragraph at page 30, line 16 to page 31, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Usage of the hair inserter according to the fourth embodiment is explained by referring to Figs. 12 and 13. The hair inserter ~~[[1]]~~ 101 before use has its combing member 103 positioned in the side of the hook 121 as in Fig. 12(a). The combing member 103 is slid toward the lower end 124 of the main body 102 against the urging force of the resilient member as shown in Fig. 12(b). The combing member 103 can move down until its sliding protrusion 132 meets the lower end of the recess 125 of the main body 102. Whereupon the hook 121 that has been hidden by the combing member 103 appears. Since the combing member 103 is always urged against the hook 121, a force that overcomes the urged force above must continuously be applied to the combing member 103 to keep the exposure of the hook 121.

Please replace the paragraph at page 31, lines 6-11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A hair bundle H that is to be inserted into a hair holder T is then caught on the hook 121 as shown in Fig. 12(c). On releasing the applied force above from the combing member 103, it slides to the hook 121 by the urging force thereby fixedly sandwiching the hair bundle H, caught on the hook ~~102,~~ 121, from both sides of the main body 102.

Please replace the paragraph at page 31, line 20 to page 32, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

After the hair inserter ~~[[1]]~~ 101 is passed through the hair holder T from the upper opening T1 to the lower opening T2, the hair bundle H is held in the hair holder T with its tip

slightly sticking out of the lower opening T2 as shown in Fig. 13(c). Thereafter the hair bundle H can be given a desired curl by, for example, rolling up the hair holder T.

Please replace the paragraph at page 36, line 13 to page 37, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

By the use of the hair inserter 101 having the thus designed hook 181 and the closing member 109, a hair bundle H can be caught on the hook 181 in accordance with the sequence of Figs. 16(a), 16(b), and 16(d). To begin with, the base of the closing member 109 is pressed (application of outer force) to pivot the closing member 109 in the direction indicated by the arrow of Fig. 16(a). As a result, the groove 109A of the closing member 109 separates from the tips of the comb teeth 181B of the hook 181 whereby the openings 181A of the hook 181 is exposed. In this state, a hair bundle H is invited between the row of tips of the comb teeth 181B and the groove 109A and caught on at least one of the comb teeth 181B as shown in Fig. 16(b). On removing the outer force applied to the cover 109, the closing member 109 moves in the direction indicated by the arrow of Fig. 16(b) by the repulsive resilient force of the spring. As a result, the tips of the comb teeth 181B of the hook 181 are fitted into the groove 109A of the closing member 109 as shown in Fig. 16(d) to close the openings ~~181A~~. 181A.

Please replace the paragraph at page 37, lines 8-17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A hair bundle H may be caught on the hook 181 of the hair inserter 101 shown in Fig. 16(a) by operating in the sequence from Figs. 16(c) to 16(d). In this case, a hair bundle (not shown) is pressed to the closing member 109 in the direction indicated by the arrow of Fig. 16(c) to make a gap between the row of tips of the comb teeth 181B of the hook 181 and the

groove 109A of the closing member 109. The hair bundle is slid through the gap and caught on the hook 181, whereupon the closing member 109 returns to its original position to close the openings 181 of the hook ~~181~~. 181A.

Please replace the paragraph at page 38, lines 6-15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The hair inserter having a closing member slidable in the longitudinal direction of the main body as in the fourth embodiment shown in Figs. 11 includes modifications shown in Figs. 17 through 19. That is, the upper edge 133 (the edge closer to the hook 121) of the closing member 103 may form the shape “J” laying on its side as in Figs. 17(a) and 17(b), or may be straight in parallel with the width direction of the main body as in Figs. 18(a) and 18(b). Or, the hook ~~102~~ 121 and the closing member 103 may constitute a pair of stag beetle’s horns as shown in Figs. 19(a) and 19(b).

Please replace the paragraph at page 43, lines 12-24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The hair inserter ~~[[1]]~~ 101 of the eighth embodiment is described in more detail. The plate-like member 202 is a long and narrow plate as shown in Fig. 24(a), the width of which is slightly smaller than the inner width of a hair holder T. The plate-like member 202 has a thick portion 221 thicker than the other part of the plate-like member 202 in the lengthwise middle area on both faces thereof. The hair catching part 206, which is frame-shaped, is formed at the upper end portion of the plate-like member 202. The frame has comb teeth 261 on its inner circumferential face of one of the sides in the width direction of the plate-like member 202. The plate-like member 202 has protrusions 207 formed on both long side edges, which width increased toward the hair catching part 203.

Please replace the paragraph at page 47, lines 11-19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The hair catching part 321 has the shape of a hook as illustrated in Fig. 28(a). The cylindrical portion 323 has a hole 323A piercing through its wall near the hair catching part (hook) 321. In the hole 323A a projection 332 (hereinafter described) provided on the sliding member 303 is adapted to be engaged. The hook 321 and the columnar portion 325 are connected via a connecting portion 324 that extends through the hollow of the sliding member 303. The connecting portion 324 has a ~~circumferentially~~ radially extending stopper 324A near the hook 321.

Please replace the paragraph at page 47, line 20 to page 48, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The sliding member 303 is a hollow cylinder in which the main body can be inserted. The sliding member 303 has a ~~circumferentially~~ radially extending stopper 334 at the upper end thereof and has a bottom 333 at the lower end thereof. The bottom 333 has a hole through which the connecting portion 324 is inserted as shown in Fig. 28(a). The sliding member 303 has, on its outer periphery, a projection 332 that projects resiliently in the ~~circumferential~~ radial direction and is configured to be fitted into the hole 323A bored in the cylindrical portion 323 of the main body 302.

Please replace the paragraph at page 49, lines 2-17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The main body 302 and the sliding member 303 can be made by, for example, machining or molding synthetic resin materials. In the ninth embodiment the cylindrical

portion 323 and the other portion of the main body 302 are separate members. The outer diameter of both the columnar portion 325 and the cylindrical portion 323 of the main body 302 are preferably decided in the following manner that a moderate insertion resistance is generated when the hair inserter 301 is inserted into a tubular hair holder. Specifically, the maximum outer circumference of the hair inserter 301 is 0.7 to 1.0 times, preferably 0.8 to 1.0 times, as long as the inner circumference of a cross-section of the hair holder T. To make it sure that the hair inserter 301 does not get back while being inserted, a projection projecting in a ~~circumferential~~ radial direction may be provided on the outer peripheral surface of the columnar portion 325 and the cylindrical portion 323 of the main body 302.

Please replace the paragraph at page 53, lines 18-24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the hair inserter 301 of the tenth embodiment, a hair bundle H can be slid along the tip of the hook 321 and thereby caught on the hook 321 as shown in Fig. 32(a). In this state, the sliding member 303 is slid toward the hook 321 to fix the hair bundle H caught on the hook ~~302~~ 321 between the hook 321 and the inner peripheral surface 331 in the upper end portion of the sliding member 303.